

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5030

INFO CINCPAC CAMP SMITH HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3799

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 51768,

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS ASKED
IN REFTEL CONCERNING IMPACT OF INCREASED FMTP COSTS.

A. THE PAK MILITARY PLACES GREATER WEIGHT ON
OUR PROVISION OF SATP FUNDS THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED
CONSIDERING THE RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT INVOLVED.
SINCE WE HAVE NEITHER A CREDIT NOR GRANT MILITARY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR MATERIEL, PAK MILITARY TENDS TO
VIEW SATP AS ONE INDICATOR OF OUR INTEREST IN ASSISTING
PAKISTAN MEET ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.
THE AMOUNT OF SATP TRAINING AVAILABLE HAS ALREADY BEEN
REDUCED THROUGH INCREASED TRAINING AND LIVING
ACCOMMODATIONS COSTS DURING PAST SEVERAL YEARS. A
FURTHER COST INCREASE WITH CONCOMITANT REDUCTION IN
TRAINING COULD BE SEEN BY PAK MILITARY AS AN INDICATION
OUR INTEREST IN PAKISTAN MAY BE DECLINING. PAK
MILITARY VIEWS IN THIS SITUATION WOULD BE EASILY
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TRANSFERABLE TO THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

AS WELL. WE DO NOT WANT TO OVEREMPHASIZE THE EFFECT OF INCREASED SATP COSTS; THEY WILL NOT CAUSE A MAJOR CRISIS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN. THEY WILL, HOWEVER, ENGENDER GREATER QUESTIONING IN THE GOP AS TO STRENGTH AND SINCERITY OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST PAK ARMED FORCES.

B. THE PAKISTAN MILITARY'S FIRST TRAINING PRIORITY IS CREER DEVELOPMENT COURSES. THE ONLY TRAINING NOW UNDER FMS IS TECHNICAL TRAINING ASSOCIATED WITH PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TOW. ALL OTHER TRAINING IS FUNDED UNDER GRANT AID. IF GRANT AID WERE NOT AVAILABLE, GOP WOULD PROBABLY FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ADEQUATE FUNDS ITSELF TO PAY FOR THE PRESENT LEVEL OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSES. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES, THEREFORE, THAT WITHOUT SATP ASSISTANCE THE PAK MILITARY'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAM WOULD BE REDUCED WITH RESULTING NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THEIR MILITARY CAPABILITIES.

C. EMBASSY BELIEVES CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSES GIVE GREATEST BENEFIT TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS IN TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FMTP AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE ADVANTAGE TO THE US IN HAVING PAK MILITARY STUDY AMERICAN TECHNIQUES AND WORK WITH US MILITARY IN THE STATES ARE CONSIDERABLE. FUNDING FOR PROGRAM IS ALREADY AT SUCH A LOW LEVEL THAT IF COSTS DOUBLED THE EMBASSY BELIEVES ESSENTIAL GRANT PROGRAM WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED.

D. IF COSTS ARE INCREASED, WE BELIEVE GOP WILL MAKE ACROSS THE BOARD CUTS IN ALL TYPES OF TRAINING. THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO STILL PROGRAM SOME CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSES, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER WOULD HAVE TO BE REDUCED. FINAL DETERMINATION ON WHICH COURSES WOULD BE ABANDONED WOULD DEPEND ON AMOUNT OF FUNDS ULTIMATELY MADE AVAILABLE.

E. BASED ON COMMENTS OF SENIOR PAKISTANI OFFICERS AND VIEWS OF ODRP, TRAINING IN OTHER COUNTRIES
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WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO US TRAINING IS GENERALLY NOT AVAILABLE. ALTHOUGH SIMILAR COURSES MAY SOMETIMES BE OFFERED, THE PAK MILITARY HAS INCORPORATED US DOCTRINE, PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT INTO THEIR SERVICES AND CONTINUES TO SEEK US TRAINING TO IMPROVE THEIR MILITARY. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF TRAINING ARE SEVERELY LIMITED FOR VARIOUS REASONS, EITHER POLITICAL (E.G., AN UNWILLINGNESS TO APPROACH THE SOVIET UNION FOR

TRAINING), EXPENSE (E.G., HIGH TRAINING COSTS IN UK),
OR ABSENCE OF TYPE OF TRAINING PAK MILITARY WANTS.

F. AS NOTED ABOVE, IMPORTANCE OF GRANT TRAINING
TO US/PAK RELATIONSHIP IS MUCH GREATER THAN DOLLAR
VALUE OF PROGRAM WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE. IN AN
OTHERWISE BUSINESSLIKE RELATIONSHIP - WHERE ALL SALES
ARE ON A CASH BASIS ONLY - THE GRANT PROGRAM IS AN
INDICATOR OF US WILLINGNESS TO MAKE SOME OF OUR OWN
RESOURCES AVAILABLE GRATIS TO THE GOP IN ORDER TO
HELP INSURE THEIR DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. GOP
APPRECIATES STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN SINCE EMBARGO
WAS LIFTED IN FEBRUARY 1975 AND OUR GROWING MILITARY
SALES RELATIONSHIP. TERMINATION OF GRANT TRAINING
PROGRAM WOULD BE VIEWED AS A CONTRARY SIGNAL TO THIS
RELATIONSHIP.

2. THE PROGRAM ALSO HAS A DECIDELY POSITIVE IMPACT
ON PAK MILITARY PERCEPTIONS OF THE US AND THE
MILITARY'S OWN COMPETENCE AND ABILITIES. THOROUGH
EXPOSURE TO THE STATES AND OUR TRAINING PROCEDURES
AND DOCTRINE, PAK OFFICERS RETURN WITH A FAVORABLE
VIEW OF THE US WHICH CAN ONLY BE TO OUR BENEFIT,
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING IMPORTANT ROLE MILITARY PLAYS
IN PAKISTAN. OUR STATED INTEREST IN SEEING A
PAKISTAN ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF WILL BE SEEN BY
GOP AS IN PART BELIED BY OUR TERMINATING A PROGRAM
WHICH CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO THAT VERY GOAL.
FOR A SMALL INVESTMENT IN DOLLARS WE HAVE, THROUGH
FMTP, GAINED AND WILL CONTINUE TO GAIN A LARGE RETURN
IN TERMS OF STRENGTHENING PAK/US BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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